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Newsletter #30:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello! It is almost hard to believe but I will be celebrating my first anniversary as an independent dealer on September 1. Many of you that know me privately and not just through the crazy world of numismatics understand what a tremendous feat this is for me. Going from running a large ancients department to being a one-woman show (in a particularly male dominated hobby and field I might add) is no easy task. I have received tremendous support from many people, most notably my husband and sons, making it all the more rewarding to continue in my new path. My goal with customers is simple: help them to assemble great collections, pay fair prices, and educate and guide along the way.

For those of you that have read my newsletter every week and sent me helpful comments or corrections. Thank you! To err is human so I appreciate hearing where I may not have something correct. For those that are just starting their collections or are new to coins, I hope you find the newsletters informative and helpful.

Have a wonderful week!

Long Beach Expo (Sept 7-9)

Remember how I said to err is human? Well, a good friend (you know who you are) pointed out to me that the LB Expo is not in any way a "small" show. I probably should have phrased that a little better to say that for ancient dealers it isn't a huge show, however, it is a massive show for everything else! Spending a few days in Long Beach sounds pretty nice too and I wish that my schedule wasn't already so packed otherwise I would be very happy to attend. I've mentioned both auctions but it is worthwhile to mention them again.

Goldberg has their pre-Long Beach auctions from September 3-6 and Heritage Auctions is the official auctioneer of the Expo with three of their five auctions live and the others online. They run from Sept 7-12.

Catalogs can be viewed through the Heritage and Goldberg sites, but equally on Sixbid or Numisbids. While I will not be there in person I am available for phone bidding. Please contact me for details if you are interested.

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I mentioned this last week but worth pointing out again. The CNG E-Sale 404 (Closing August 23) and the Roma E-Sale 39 (Closing August 26) are this week.

Visiting the CNG Offices (Sept 11-13)

I am finally getting out to Lancaster to spend a few days viewing and then being present for the closing of CNG 106 on Sept. 13. While CNG has electronic auctions that run every two weeks like clockwork, mail bid sales are less often and offer substantially nicer material. The 106 is a very nice sale with particularly interesting pieces. Please let me know if you want me to help you on the auction. Needless to say it will be substantially easier to implement my bids sitting at their offices during the closing.

Paul-Francis Jacquier Auction 43 (Sept 15)

I recently received the Jacquier auction catalog and aside from the lovely coins that are being offered I want to point out that Paul-Francis also offers many duplicates from the BCD book collection. What I appreciate as well was the care that BCD took in explaining almost every lot that is being offered from his collection. As someone who loves the research behind coin purchases I appreciate the commentary. My first purchases from Paul-Francis in fact were books so it is very fitting that BCD would look to him for selling duplicates from his library. If you are looking to expand your library then I suggest taking a peek at this catalog which can be found on Numisbids or Sixbid.

London/Germany Trip (Sept 19-27)

I'm currently taking bids for the Roma auction on Sept 21. See the attached catalog:

<http://romanumismatics.com/catalogues/>

I am also taking bids for day one (ancients) of the Künker auction on Sept 25. The catalog can be viewed on Sixbid or Numisbids.

Coins, Artists, and Tyrants: Syracuse in the Time of the Peloponnesian War: ANS NS No. 33

Today a back-ordered copy of the above titled book arrived to my home in a substantial box. This may be old news to some of you but for me I was very excited. I'd been hearing for the last year or so from the author, Dr. Wolfgang Fischer Bossert, that an updated version of the standard work on Syracusan coinage by Lauri O. Tudeer would be forthcoming. Of course at this writing I've only skimmed the pages of the 400 page, 27 plate book. I plan to delve in over the weekend. For any serious collector of Syracusan coins this is a MUST. The book is far from inexpensive at a list price of \$200, however, if you are an ANS member (I am) then you can get a 30% discount.

Here is a link to the page to order the book. Join the Society too if you aren't already a member. Besides getting the discount you will also join a number of academics and dealers who are interested in the knowledge behind the coin.

<http://numismatics.org/store/category/numismatic-studies/>

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C. Vibius Varus. Rome, 42 BC. AR Denarius, 3.35g (18mm, 12h). Laureate head of Hercules r. / C·VIBIVS – VARVS Minerva standing r., holding Victory and spear

Pedigree: From the collection of E.E. Clain-Stefanelli

Price: \$4,250

There is very little known of the Roman moneyer C. Vibius Varus, however the year in which he had money struck was a time of change and turmoil in Rome. Caesar had just been assassinated on the Ides of March and his adopted son Octavian (later Augustus) was determined to hunt down Brutus and Cassius, his killers who had fled. The second triumvirate had been formed, composed of Octavian, Mark Antony and Lepidus. Money was necessary to build and stabilize the troops not to mention show the strength of the new leadership.

It has been implied by Michael Crawford that this denarius struck under Varus with Heracles on the obverse was an allusion to Julius Caesar (p. 511 in his book RRC). The crown Hercules wears should signify the crown of the another great leader/warrior, Alexander the Great. Indeed no small message during this tumultuous year.

This coin holds historical interest but is equally special for its suggested link to Julius Caesar. Without question it shows his continuing hold on the Roman elite even after his death. While the Republic was certainly changing far before Caesar, after his death there was swift crumbling of the Republic. While similar imagery can be seen on Republican coins in general (i.e. gods/goddesses, allusions to the moneyers, etc.), the coins that were struck during the late Republic are perhaps more interesting than the beginning as they became much more about presumed power and innuendo and less so about commerce.

References: Babelon Vibia 23. Sydenham 1139. Sear Imperators 193. RBW 1740. Crawford 494/37

Grade: Rare. A portrait of enchanting beauty work of a very skilled master engraver, wonderful old cabinet tone and extremely fine

If you are interested in this coin please email shanna@shannaschmidt.com

If you are interested in any other coins I have available please visit my website www.shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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